



A.I.R.T.

SPRING BENEFIT

2015

NEW YORK

honoring

Lisa Cleff Kurtz & Pam MacKinnon

April 20 / Tribeca Rooftop



Dear Pam,

**Most of us do what we can –
YOU do so much more!**

~With thanks and DEEP admiration,

Kathy

Kathleen Chalfant

Kathleen Chalfant, Tracee Chimo, and John Lithgow

Honorary Co-Chairs

and

The Benefit Committee

and

The A.R.T./New York Board of Directors, Jeffrey R. Gural, Chair

Welcome You to the

A.R.T. SPRING BENEFIT
2015 NEW YORK

Honoring

Lisa Cleff Kurtz & Pam MacKinnon

Entertainment Producer & Director

Frank Ventura

Music Director & Pianist

Debra Barsha

Lyricist

Timothy Huang

Drums
Joe Bergamini

Bass
Leo Huppert

Production Stage Manager
Cate DiGirolamo

Award Presenters

Cynthia Harris & Jordan Roth

Hosted by

Christine Lahti

April 20, 2015 / Tribeca Rooftop
2 Desbrosses Street

6:00PM Cocktails

7:00PM Dinner & Program

WELCOME



Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Benefit Committee, and our Honorary Co-Chairs, Kathleen Chalfant, Tracee Chimo, and John Lithgow, I am thrilled to welcome you to the A.R.T./New York 2015 Spring Benefit honoring the award-winning director Pam MacKinnon and our own devoted and dynamic Board Member Lisa Cleff Kurtz.

For 43 years, A.R.T./New York has supported the growth and health of New York City's nonprofit theatre field through progressive training, grant, loan, and subsidized real estate programs, and today we represent 350 companies in all five boroughs. For our leadership, we've been honored with numerous awards,

including a New York City Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture and a Tony Honor for Excellence in the Theatre.

This year, as we enter the final stages of construction for the highly anticipated A.R.T./New York Theatres, which will open in 2016, we are thrilled to celebrate this milestone with our supporters. We have created a very special evening of entertainment for you, produced and directed by A.R.T./New York member Frank Ventura, Founder and Executive Artistic Director of CAP21. Thanks to the generosity of Frank, his assistant James Bulleri, composer Debra Barsha, and lyricist Timothy Huang, we are bringing you the BEST of Off Broadway. We're also incredibly honored to have Academy, Emmy, and two-time Golden Globe Award-winning star of the stage and screen Christine Lahti as host of tonight's event!

Our honorees, Pam MacKinnon and Lisa Cleff Kurtz, not only represent the best of A.R.T./New York, but also the best of New York City. Both women came here to pursue careers in the theatre: Lisa to study acting at the Lee Strasburg Institute and Pam to direct. Since "cutting their teeth" in Off Off Broadway, these women have reached impressive heights of success in a notoriously competitive field. But it's not only their resumes that make them such wonderful assets to our community: it is their unwavering commitment to preserving theatre's power to affect us, heal us, and push us toward our better selves, and their desire to share that power with the world.

Lisa Cleff Kurtz has appeared in, stage managed, co-produced, and directed numerous plays and short films in New York. After using her theatrical expertise to launch her highly successful consulting business producing videos for companies such as HBO, Apple, and Disney, Lisa met her husband Michael Kurtz. In lieu of gifts, Lisa and Michael requested donations to their favorite charities, and their wedding was featured in the pages of *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*. Lisa's giving spirit permeates all she does in both her life and career, as evidenced by her work as a Board Member of A.R.T./New York. Lisa has introduced our organization to dozens of friends and colleagues, led us to new Board Members and new sources of support, and since joining us has been unfailingly enthusiastic and dedicated. **For serving as A.R.T./New York's one-woman press agent, fund-raiser, and hostess, we are thrilled to present Lisa with The Kathy and Howard J. Aibel Award.**

Pam MacKinnon's journey to the theatre began with plans for a Ph.D. in Political Science, but she soon realized that her love of the stage was greater than politics, and turned her focus to directing at the University of California San Diego.

Obviously, she made the right choice, as Pam has enjoyed back-to-back successes with productions that originated at nonprofit theatres but soon made their way to Broadway, including her 2012 production of Bruce Norris' Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, *Clybourne Park*, which also received the Tony Award for Best Play. The following year Pam received the 2013 Tony Award for Best Director of a Play for Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, and through the years, she has garnered a reputation as a keen interpreter of Albee's work. Just as his plays were written in the hopes of stirring people to change, so we appreciate Pam for her collaboration with numerous A.R.T./New York member theatres, and her continuous efforts to preserve nonprofit theatre as a moving record of our humanity. **For her work throughout the entire theatrical ecosystem, we are proud to present Pam with The Abe L. Blinder Award.**

Tonight would not be possible without our incredibly hardworking Benefit Committee, whose devotion to Pam, Lisa, and A.R.T./New York has brought us to this moment! A very special thanks also to Todd Haimes for his help behind the scenes, and my deepest gratitude to our two Awards presenters: Founding Artistic Director of The Actors Company Theatre (TACT) and award-winning actress Cynthia Harris, and Jordan Roth, President of Jujamcyn Theaters.

And finally, thank YOU for coming tonight and sharing this special celebration with us!

Warmly,

Virginia P. Louloudes
Executive Director

2015 HONOREE THE KATHY AND HOWARD J. AIBEL AWARD

Honoring **Lisa Cleff Kurtz**



The Kathy and Howard J. Aibel Award is presented to an individual in the philanthropic or business community whose work has had a significant impact on our members. The 2015 Kathy and Howard J. Aibel Award will be presented to A.R.T./New York Board Member **Lisa Cleff Kurtz** for her incredible philanthropic support of the organization. Lisa has been a tireless advocate, generously loaning her creativity and connections to the cause. Her unwavering passion for the theatre and in helping artists achieve their goals makes her the ideal candidate for this recognition.

Lisa began her career as an actor, dancer, writer, casting director, and artists' rep. She studied dance and theatre at Princeton Ballet Society, The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute, and HB Studio. A born entrepreneur, Lisa transferred these skills into a career as an Executive Producer

at internationally renowned creative agencies, producing TV commercials, music videos, and documentaries. Lisa has invested in several Broadway shows including *Lucky Guy*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, and *An American in Paris*. Lisa also produced several films: *Little White Lie*, *The Hebrew Hammer vs. Hitler*, *The Russian Soul*, and *The Kid Stays in the Picture*. Lisa's philanthropy includes providing pro bono marketing and development for nonprofit organizations from the educational, fine arts, and performing arts sectors. She is a long-time donor to various educational, performing arts, fine arts, women's rights, and veterans' benefits organizations. Lisa is the wife of the sexy and handsome Michael Ira Kurtz and mother to the one and only gorgeous character that is Zoe Cleff Lindgren.

2015 HONOREE THE ABE L. BLINDER AWARD

Honoring **Pam MacKinnon**



The Abe L. Blinder Award is presented to an artist who has made a significant impact on A.R.T./New York and the theatre community. The 2015 Abe L. Blinder Award will be presented to internationally acclaimed theatre director **Pam MacKinnon** for her talent, vision, and dedication to the nonprofit theatre field. Even with her many successes on Broadway, she keeps returning to the stages of A.R.T./New York's Off Broadway member theatres, bringing even more success and notoriety to their work. Pam also serves as Chair of the Board for Clubbed Thumb, an A.R.T./New York member theatre, staying connected to and supporting the next generation of artists.

Pam MacKinnon won a Tony Award and Drama Desk Award and received an Outer Critics Circle nomination for Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*. She also won an Obie Award and

was nominated for Tony and Lucille Lortel Awards for her direction of Bruce Norris' *Clybourne Park*. Recent projects include Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (Broadway) and Wendy Wasserstein's *Heidi Chronicles* (Broadway, opened March 2015). Her many Off Broadway and regional credits include recent productions of Bruce Norris' *The Qualms* (Steppenwolf), Sarah Treem's *When We Were Young and Unafraid* (MTC), Donald Margulies' *Dinner With Friends* (Roundabout), Craig Lucas' *The Lying Lesson* (Atlantic), and Horton Foote's *Harrison, TX* (Primary Stages). She is an alumna of The Drama League, The Women's Project, and Lincoln Center Theater Directors' Labs, and is an associate artist at the Roundabout, Executive Board Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, and Board Chair of the New York City downtown company Clubbed Thumb, dedicated to new American plays.

*To Pam
with Love
and
Admiration*

*Your vision and
artistry inspire us all.
Congratulations on this
well deserved honor.*

Daryl

PROGRAM

ACT ONE

Scene 1: A.R.T./New York: the Musical!

Scene 2: Welcome

Scene 3: Salute to Our Supporters

Scene 4: Lisa Cleff Kurtz: the Musical!

Scene 5: Presentation of The Kathy and Howard J. Aibel Award
to Lisa Cleff Kurtz by Cynthia Harris

/ **Entr'acte:** Entrees /

ACT TWO

Scene 1: Pam MacKinnon: the Musical!

Scene 2: Presentation of The Abe L. Blinder Award to Pam
MacKinnon by Jordan Roth

Scene 3: Raise the Roof/Your Hands

Scene 4: Finale

Congratulations to **Lisa!**

**You are a shining star whose energy helps new theater
continue to grow brightly.**

With admiration,
Robert Levande and Andrea Brown

WHO'S WHO



FRANK VENTURA

(Entertainment Producer & Director) is the Founder and Executive Artistic Director of Collaborative Arts Project 21 (CAP21), a nonprofit Theatre Company and Conservatory dedicated to creating new work, developing new talent, and building new audiences. Over the past 20 years CAP21 has become known for developing and producing new plays and musicals that respond to the times we live in, and for fostering the next generation of playwrights and musical theatre creators. In 2012, CAP21's production of the new musical *Southern Comfort* won the 2012 GLAAD Award for Outstanding New York Theater: Off Off Broadway, and 2014 marks the fifth consecutive year new musicals chosen for development and given full productions by the CAP21 Theatre Company have received the prestigious Jonathan Larson Grant. NEW YORK: Broadway: Movement, Etiquette, and Choreography: *The Winslow Boy*, *The Importance of*

Being Earnest (Roundabout Theatre Company); *The New York Idea* (The Atlantic Theatre Company); *After Miss Julie* (Roundabout Theater Company); *Top Girls* (Manhattan Theater Club); *The Constant Wife* (Roundabout Theater Company); *Tartuffe* (The Public Theater-Shakespeare in the Park); For The Shakespeare Theatre, D.C: *The Metromaniacs*, *The Heir Apparent*, *The Liar*, *The Way of The World*; *The Misanthrope* (Classic Stage Company). Assistant Director: *Annie Warbucks*; Choreographer: *Winchell* (Broadway Workshop). New Musicals: Director/Choreographer: *Six of One*, *The Library*, *One Tough Cookie*, and *The Game*. OFF BROADWAY: Choreographic Credits: *Girl Crazy*, *Kiss Me Quick*, *Before the Lava Reaches the Village*, and *The No-Frills Revue*. He has served as President of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation, on the faculties of CAP21 Conservatory and NYU Graduate Acting Department, and holds a B.A. in Speech and Drama from Catholic University, as well as a B.F.A. and M.F.A. in Acting from the Goodman School of Drama.



CHRISTINE LAHTI (Host)

No one would view Christine Lahti's more than 30-year career with anything less than the utmost esteem. She earned her first Oscar nomination in 1985's *Swing Shift* then took the statue home 10 years later as a first-time director for her

short film *Lieberman in Love*. In 1998 after multiple nominations, Lahti won both the Emmy and her second Golden Globe Award—the TV movie *No Place Like Home* was the first—for her portrayal of Dr. Kathryn Austin on “Chicago Hope.” Three years later her feature film directorial debut *My First Mister* opened the 2001 Sundance Film Festival. Lahti recently shot a lead role in Andrew Currie's upcoming independent feature *The Steps*. She was last seen opposite Kristin Wiig and Hailee Steinfeld in *Hateship Loveship*, which had its premiere at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival. Additional film credits include Sidney Lumet's *Running on Empty* for which she received the 1998 LA Film Critics Award as well as a Golden Globe nomination; *Leaving Normal* directed by Ed Zwick; *The Doctor* with William Hurt; Bill Forsyth's *Housekeeping*, which was voted one of the 20 best films of 1987 by many of America's film critics; *Whose Life is it Anyway?*; and *...and Justice for All*. On the TV front, Lahti was most recently seen as Doris McGarrett in CBS's “Hawaii Five-O” and also portrayed ADA Sonya Paxton in a recurring role on “Law & Order: SVU.” Her most notable work on the small screen was a starring role on the critically acclaimed series “Jack & Bobby,” for which she received both SAG and Golden Globe nominations. She has also starred in numerous television movies including *Amerika* (Emmy and Golden Globe nomination), Showtime's *Out of the Ashes*, *The Pilot's Wife*, *Open House*, and *The Book of Ruth*, among others. A highly esteemed thespian, Lahti last graced the New York stage with her performance in The Culture Project's 10th anniversary production of *The Exonerated* alongside Marg Helgenberger and Martin Short. Prior to that, she starred with Morgan Freeman in the Broadway debut of Dustin Lance Black's play 8, a staged reenactment of the federal trial that overturned California's Prop 8 ban on same-sex marriage. She also joined the cast of the Tony Award-winning play *God of Carnage*, replacing Marcia Gay Harden in the role that would later be portrayed by Jodie Foster in the 2011 film adaptation by Roman Polanski. Her theatrical endeavors have been equally successful in Los Angeles, with a Drama Desk-nominated role in *Three Hotels* as well as a month-long stage run at the Geffen playhouse in Nora and Delia Ephron's critically acclaimed *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*.



DEBRA BARSHA

(Music Director & Pianist) won the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Award for the score to *Radiant Baby*, directed by George C. Wolfe (Public Theater). Composer credits: *Songs From an Unmade Bed* (NYTW),

Cookin'! (Amas), *Sophie* (JRT), NBC's *Policewoman* *Centerfold* soundtrack, and her two one-woman shows *Go To Your Womb* and *A Womb With a View* (CAP21/Cherry Lane Theatre). Barsha originated roles and was the music director for the original Off Broadway companies of both *Tony 'N' Tina's Wedding* and Charles Busch's *Swingtime Canteen*. She also served as music director for the Steven Sater/Serj Tankian world premiere of *Prometheus Bound* (Artistic Director Diane Paulus). Her songs have been recorded by: George Clinton, Jackie Mason, Marty Balin, and Rebecca Luker. She conducted Karen O's psycho opera *Stop the Virgins!* at St. Ann's Warehouse and at the Sydney Opera House. This year, she wrote the vocal arrangement for the gospel choir on the Yeah Yeah Yeah's single *Sacrilege*, and appeared on “The Late Show with David Letterman” conducting the Broadway Inspirational Voices singing her arrangement. Barsha arranged the vocals for the upcoming album of “Orange Is The New Black” star Lea DeLaria. Currently, Debra is the associate conductor for Broadway's Tony Award-winning musical *Jersey Boys*.



TIMOTHY HUANG

(Lyricist) has written several projects for several amazing A.R.T./New York member companies: Prospect Theater Company, New York Theatre Barn, and Baayork Lee's National Asian Artists Project (*Andy Pickets*, *2 to Wakefield*, *Crossing Over*), and he couldn't be more honored to support A.R.T./New York. He was a 2008 MacDowell Fellow, where he created the song cycle *LINES* (NYMF '08) and the full length *Death and Lucky*. His song *Everything I Do, You Do* (with co-lyricist Sara Wordsworth) was recorded by Sutton Foster for the charity album *Over the Moon: The Broadway Lullaby Project*. His full length *Costs of Living* was a selection of the 2014 NAMT Songwriter's Showcase, the 2011 ASCAP Musical Theater Workshop, the BMI 2012 Master Class hosted by Stephen Sondheim, a finalist for the 2012 American Harmony Prize, and a nominee for the 2013 Weston Playhouse New Musical Award and the 2014 Jerry Bock Award. His newest piece,

Congratulations
Lisa!

-Wendy & Jerry Labowitz

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Peter and the Wall, was selected for the 2015 Blue Mountain Center and 2013 Rhinebeck Writers Retreat alongside pieces by Duncan Shiek, Heidi Rodewald and Stew, Joe Iconis, and Kerrigan & Lowdermilk. Other works include *Timothy Huang: Chinese or Crazy?* (NYTB in the D-Lounge), *Short Story Long: The Songs of Timothy Huang* (NEO Spotlight Series, York Theater), *A Relative Relationship* (Winner, Best Musical, 2013 SoundBites Festival). Timothy is the recipient of a 2013 Jerry Harrington Award, a 2012 Fred Ebb Award finalist, and a 2012-2013 Dramatist Guild Fellow.

CATE DIGIROLAMO (Production Stage Manager) is a graduate of RADA, and has worked for Gate Theatre Notting Hill, Royal Court Theatre, and the Almeida Theatre in London, and more recently for New York City Opera, Mark Morris Dance, and CAP21 in New York. She is currently the Production Manager for TACT, and Resident Lighting Designer for Wide Eyed Productions, where she also serves on the Board of Directors.



HONORING YOUR SUCCESS.

We proudly support
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in its
Spring 2015 Benefit
and are pleased to congratulate
**Lisa Cleff Kurtz
& Pam MacKinnon**

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE A.R.T./NEW YORK THEATRES

COMING SOON

The A.R.T./New York Theatres

Through the generosity of our funders and the City of New York, we have fulfilled 80% of our \$22.5M campaign for the highly anticipated A.R.T./New York Theatres, which will open in June 2016 at 53rd Street and 10th Avenue in Manhattan!

Designed by internationally renowned architect Toshiko Mori, the Theatres will house two LEED Silver performance spaces of 99 and 150 seats, respectively. Each will be equipped with flexible seating to accommodate all genres of production, and state-of-the-art audio/visual technical equipment will be included in the rental free. Through a covenant with the City of New York, these spaces will be reserved exclusively for nonprofit theatres for the next 99 years, and A.R.T./New York's Rental Subsidy Fund will ensure that they are subsidized for theatres with annual budgets below \$500,000 (72% of our membership).

THE CASE FOR SPACE

As real estate costs steadily rise, New York City has been losing its small, affordable performance venues (50 in the last decade alone), driving the cost of the remaining spaces even higher. Despite nonprofit theatre's impressive history of producing influential, award-winning art, these small companies shoulder the heaviest financial burden in New York's exclusive real estate market. The A.R.T./New York Theatres will address the urgent need for affordable performance space in the city, and secure a long-term, high-quality home for these companies so that artists can continue working and thriving in New York.

PLAY A LEADING ROLE

The companies we represent use their talent and vision to strengthen communities and celebrate the diverse voices of our city. Writers like Tony Kushner, Lynn Nottage, Jonathan Larson, David Henry Hwang, Lisa Kron, Charles Fuller, Robert Askins, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Ayad Akhtar, and dozens of others got their start at A.R.T./New York's Off and Off Off Broadway companies before moving to Broadway. If you're interested in joining our mission to empower and preserve nonprofit theatre, please contact us about donating to our campaign or to learn about the new theatres' numerous naming opportunities.

FOR INFORMATION / INQUIRIES

Katherine Heberling
Director of Development
(212) 244-6667 ext. 233
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**Congratulations
Pam!**

**From,
Your friends at
Primary Stages**

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Harrison, TX:
Three plays by Horton Foote

**All of us at NYTW
congratulate
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Lisa Cleff Kurtz & Pam MacKinnon

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PAM!**

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Lynne, Barry, and
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**A.R.T./New York,
Lisa Cleff Kurtz,
and Pam MacKinnon!**

Congratulations to Pam



**and my beloved
A.R.T./New York!**



THANK YOU

to all my wonderful friends
who have joined me tonight
to celebrate, and a special
thank you to my beautiful and
talented daughter, Zoe Cleff
Lindgren, and my adorable and
brilliant husband,
Michael Kurtz!

ROUNABOUT THEATRE COMPANY
salutes

ART/NY

and our dear friend

PAM MACKINNON

Congratulations!



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LISA CLEFF KURTZ
and all our friends at
A.R.T.

/ ABOUT A.R.T./NEW YORK /

Founded in 1972, the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York (A.R.T./New York) is the premier service and advocacy organization for the city's vibrant community of nonprofit theatres, with a mission to assist our 350 members in managing their companies more effectively so that they can reach their full creative potential and serve their diverse audiences well. From shared office and rehearsal spaces, to the nation's only capital loan fund specifically for theatres, to technical assistance and leadership training initiatives, A.R.T./New York has earned a reputation as a leader in providing progressive services to the industry, receiving, among other awards, a Tony Honor for Excellence in the Theatre and a Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture.



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A.R.T./New York

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 319

New York, NY 10018

(212) 244-6667

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